



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Eleven Individuals Charged Locally in Mexican Drug Connection

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia announced that a federal Grand Jury Indictment was unsealed today charging eleven individuals with conspiracy to distribute large amounts of marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine obtained from sources in Mexico and brought across the U.S. border and into the Tulsa area. Alleged ringleaders Manuel and Mario Bonilla also face charges of operating a Continuing Criminal Enterprise, commonly known as the federal drug kingpin law.

1. Manuel Bonilla, age 36, of Mexico (wanted - remains at large)
2. Mario Bonilla, age 23, of Tulsa
3. Holly King, age 29, of Wann, Oklahoma
4. Cecilia Lorena Bonilla, age 20, of Tulsa
5. Michelle Moreno, age 27, of Tulsa
6. Francisca Bonilla, age 63, of Mexico
7. Jose Silos, age 47, of Mexico
8. Selene Soto, age 31, of Odessa, Texas
9. Omar Cruz, age 27, of Mexico (wanted - remains at large)
10. Felix McVay, age 51, of Haskell, Oklahoma
11. Victor Poras, age 36, of Kansas City, Missouri

Nine of the above listed defendants are now in custody.

U.S. Attorney O'Meilia said the investigation that led to this Indictment spanned over two and one-half years and was dubbed Operation Icepack. The Indictment alleges that from about March 2001 until the present date the Bonilla family drug trafficking organization, headed by Manuel Bonilla and his brother, Mario Bonilla, of Juarez, Mexico, contacted and arranged for sources of supply in Mexico for marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine. They allegedly orchestrated the transportation of the drugs across the border into the United States, primarily through the El Paso, Texas, area, from where they were ultimately brought into the Tulsa area and Kansas City, where the organization maintained locations for storing,

manufacturing, distributing and selling the drugs. The defendants allegedly utilized various communication methods including cellular phones and pagers to conduct and carry out their operations and firearms to protect their drug shipments and cash profits. Also, they are accused of smuggling firearms from the United States into Mexico in sophisticated hidden compartments.

If found guilty of the charge of Conspiracy, 21 U.S.C. Section 846 , they face a prison sentence of not less than 10 years and up to life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4 million and a mandatory supervised release period of 5 years. The offense of Continuing Criminal Enterprise, 21 U.S.C. Section 848, carries a mandatory 20 years to life and a possible fine of up to \$2 million. The Northern District of Oklahoma court case number assigned to this matter is 08 CR 051 CVE.

U.S. Attorney O'Meilia praised the work of law enforcement in this matter. The following agencies utilized multiple investigative techniques, including court authorized wiretaps, in uncovering this major drug trafficking organization.

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
- Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division
- Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement
- Tulsa Police Department
- Drug Enforcement Administration

U.S. Attorney's Office based Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Attorney Allen J. Litchfield and Assistant U.S. Attorney Shannon Henson are leading the prosecution efforts.

A Grand Jury Indictment is one method of charging a defendant with alleged violations of federal law, which must be proven in a court of law beyond a reasonable doubt to overcome the defendant's presumption of innocence.